Mismanagement in Telecommunications

†5276. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1934 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 21st March, 2002 and state:

(a) the names of employees of Mainpuri, Agra, Etah, Etawah against whom major and minor penalties have been imposed;

(b) the details of the charges against them;

(c) whether it is a fact that one TDM and an officer of Mainpuri have been penalised/punished by the court's/the consumer forum during the last five years;

(d) whether it is also a fact that they have committed lot of irregularities/negligencies;

(e) the details thereof alongwith their names; and

(f) the action being taken by Government against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Utilization of funds under Media Lab Asia Project

5277. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 80 per cent of fund given to Media Lab Asia Project has been spent on non-research activities;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to see that funds under this project are utilized for the purpose it has been allocated?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir. Funds given to Media Lab Asia Project has been spent mainly on research activities,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

such as, creating basic research-oriented infrastructure in establishing research hubs/labs at IITs at Delhi, Kanpur, Madras, Mumbai and Kharagpur, conducting field trials and tests, and connectivity charges. It also includes payment to MIT Media Lab, USA to support and collaborate with Media Lab Asia under the Research Collaboration Agreement between the two.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Telephone exchanges in villages

†5278. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-items which appeared in the 'Rashtriya Sahara', dated the 2nd April, 2002 under the caption 'Gaavon Kay liyay sthapit teen hazaar exchange bijli kay intazaar main';

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to start these exchanges and by when these would start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) the information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Post Offices with Internet/E-mail/Computer facilities

5279. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices in the country both rural and urban, where Internet, e-mail and computer facilities are made available for the past five years;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.